

Message Text

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APPROVED BY ARA :T.TODMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242671

FOR AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, UY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA'S MEETING WITH ACTING
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN

REF: MVD 4471

1. MINISTER ROVIRA, ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ALVARO ALVAREZ AND
AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS, MET WITH ACTING SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN IN THE DEPART-
MENT ON OCTOBER 6. AFTER A 45 MINUTE MEETING IN THE ACTING
SECRETARY'S OFFICE, THE MEETING CONTINUED FOR A SIMILAR
TIME IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S OFFICE.

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2. ROVIRA BEGAN, AFTER THE USUAL AMENITIES, WITH THE
STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT MENDEZ RETURNED TO MONTEVIDEO AS
AN ARDENT DEFENDER OF PRESIDENT CARTER. THE ACTING SECRE-
TARY RESPONDED THAT MENDEZ' VISIT ALSO RAISED OUR EXPECTA-
TIONS THAT A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS WILL SHORTLY BE
TAKEN BY THE GOU, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY
AUTHORITY, INVITATIONS TO PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS TO VISIT

AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSION. IF THESE ACTIONS COME TO PASS THE ACTING SECRETARY ADDED, THEY WILL BE GOOD NEWS INDEED.

3. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT THE SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES APPLIED ONLY TO A SPECIAL CATEGORY OF PRISONERS, BUT THAT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN URUGUAY, ONLY COMMON CRIMINALS. THE INFORMATION COMMISSION, HE OBSERVED, WAS ALREADY FUNCTIONING. AS AN EXAMPLE, SINCE BEING IN THE U.S. THE MINISTER HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM MONTEVIDEO CONCERNING AN INQUIRY FROM THE IAHRC ABOUT A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL. A REPLY WAS GIVEN TO THE IAHRC WITHIN 24 HRS.

4. THE ACTING SECRETARY NEXT STATED THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS WAS OF GREAT VALUE, BUT A GOOD DEAL MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. WE MUST NOT SEE IN ONE MEETING A SOLUTION TO ALL OUR BILATERAL PROBLEMS, BUT RATHER VIEW IT AS ONLY A FOUNDATION UPON WHICH TO BUILD. PRESIDENT CARTER IS COMMITTED TO HIS POLICY OF WORKING FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE OUR DECISIONS ON BILATERAL ISSUES. THE ACTING SECRETARY ADDED WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN URUGUAY. ROVIRA RESPONDED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS

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QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOU, WHICH WILL DEFEND THE SAME VALUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. HE THEN QUICKLY REVIEWED THE CONDITIONS IN URUGUAY WHICH LED TO A STATE OF INTERNAL WARFARE, AND ADDED THAT HE EXPECTS THAT IN A FEW MORE MONTHS AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO WILL HAVE DEVELOPED A FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE REALITY OF THE URUGUAYAN SITUATION.

5. THE ACTING SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO, AND THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY WORKED WITH PEZZULLO HERE BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER CHOSE HIM TO BE OUR AMBASSADOR IN URUGUAY. ROVIRA OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO WILL HAVE THE COOPERATION OF ALL THE FACILITIES OF THE GOU.

6. THE ACTING SECRETARY THEN STATED THAT WE REGRET WE CANNOT NOW SUPPORT URUGUAYAN LOAN APPLICATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. HE WANTED TO BRING THIS DECISION TO THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION IN A PRIVATE MANNER SO THAT THE GOU CAN TAKE DECISIONS ON THIS MATTER WITH FOREKNOWLEDGE OF OUR POSITION. THE ACTING SECRETARY ADDED THAT WE WERE FORCED TO TAKE THIS DECISION BASED ON

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY OUR STATUTES AND LEGISLATION. HE ADDED THAT IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AND THAT WE HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS THAT EVENTS WILL ENABLE US TO GIVE OUR SUPPORT.

7. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED THE U.S. ATTITUDE, WHICH HE FELT WAS BASED ON ERRONEOUS INFORMATION. HE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL GO AHEAD WITH APPLICATIONS TO THE BANKS WHATEVER IS THE OUTCOME BECAUSE THE U.S. POSITION IS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH GOVERN THE BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

8. THE ACTING SECRETARY THEN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF
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THE MINISTER'S UN SPEECH, STATING THAT HE HAD READ A SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH AND HOPED THE U.S. WAS NOT INCLUDED IN CERTAIN REFERENCES. IN PARTICULAR, THE ACTING SECRETARY STATED THAT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF PROTECTIONISM. HE OBSERVED THAT WE ARE NOW SEEING THE SPECTER OF PROTECTIONISM RISING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE U.S. IS DETERMINED TO RESIST THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND WE HOPE THAT URUGUAY WILL BE COUNTED IN THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO JOIN US IN OUR EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A LIBERAL TRADE POLICY. IT IS VITAL TO KEEP OPEN TRADE CHANNELS AND AVOID THE UNEMPLOYMENT THAT IMPORT CONTROLS COULD CAUSE. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THIS IS THE U.S. POLICY IN VIEW OF THE TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETINGS NOW IN PROGRESS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE QUESTION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. ROVIRA ADDED THAT THE INTERNAL WAR WHICH URUGUAY SUFFERED SET BACK ITS TIMETABLE FOR REMOVING SUBSIDIES AT AN EARLY DATE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETINGS ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES WILL BE REFLECTED AT THE PUBLIC LEVEL IN URUGUAY AND DETERMINE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE URUGUAYAN PUBLIC MAINTAINS OF THE U.S. INTENTIONS. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON URUGUAYAN LEATHER PRODUCTS WOULD NOT BE A WISE POLICY. THE ACTING SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRUDENT IN CARRYING OUT OUR TRADE POLICY, AND THAT WE ARE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT URUGUAY HAS A PROGRAM TO REMOVE ITS SUBSIDIES.

9. IN THE FOLLOWUP MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, TODMAN ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT ROVIRA'S MEETINGS EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN, NOTING THAT THE CONGRESS HAS ITS OWN SOURCES OF INFORMATION. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT THIS WAS IMPORTANT TO KNOW, BUT IT WAS
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DANGEROUS FOR THE CONGRESS TO RELY ON UNOFFICIAL SOURCES. ROVIRA FELT THE MEETINGS IN CONGRESS WERE USEFUL AND INDICATED THAT HE EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO ALL HE MET TO VISIT URUGUAY.

10. AMBASSADOR TODMAN ASKED WHAT WAS THE STATUS OF THE GOU REPLY TO THE IAHRC. ROVIRA RESPONDED THAT THE IAHRC HAD RECEIVED THE GOU REPORT AND WOULD MEET AT THE END OF

OCTOBER TO CONSIDER IT. HE ADDED THAT THE GOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ITS REPLY TO THE IAHRC PUBLISHED, BUT WOULD NOT NOW DO SO ITSELF.

SEPTTEL WILL REPORT AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S DISCUSSION OF BRIZOLA CASE WITH ROVIRA. CHRISTOPHER

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